

from hours to months. Disturbances may be apparent in auditory, visual, olfactory, gustatory, tactile, and kinesthetic responses. The child may respond to stimulation inappropriately and in repetitive or nonmeaningful ways.

### **Deaf/Blindness Definition**

“Deaf/Blindness” means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

#### **Criteria for Initial Determination of Eligibility**

A child is deaf/blind when:

- A. both visual and hearing impairments are present;
- B. the impairments together cause severe communication, developmental, and educational needs.

### **Emotional Disturbance Definition**

“Emotional Disturbance” means a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child’s educational performance:

- A. an inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory or health factors;
- B. an inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers;
- C. inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances;
- D. a general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; and,
- E. a tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or social problems.

The term includes schizophrenia, but does not apply to children who are **socially** maladjusted unless it is determined they have an emotional disturbance.

#### **Criteria for Initial Determination of Eligibility**

A child displays an emotional disturbance when:

- A. through evaluation procedures that must include observation of behavior in different environments, and an in-depth social history the child displays one of the following characteristics:
  - 1) an inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory or health factors;
  - 2) an inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers;
  - 3) inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances;
  - 4) a general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; and,
  - 5) a tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or social problems.
- B. the characteristic(s) must have existed to a marked degree and over an extended period of time. In most cases, an extended period of time would be a range from two (2) through nine (9) months depending upon the age of the child and the type of